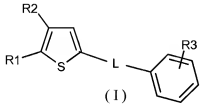
Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A compound according to formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R_1 represents NR_4R_5;

R_2 represents $CONH_2$ or SO_2NH_2;

R_3 represents up to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, NH_2, CF_3, OCF_3, O-alkyl, S-alkyl, CN, CHO, SO_2-alkyl, and NO_2;

R_4 represents H or C_{1-2} alkyl;

R_5 represents $C(=A)NHR_6$, COR_7, or R_6;

A represents O, S, or N;

R_6 represents H, or C_{1-2} alkyl;

R_7 represents C_{1-2} alkyl; and

L represents a linker D-E-D such that

D represents a bond or C_{1-4} alkyl;

E represents C = C, CONH, NHCO, COO, NH, O, S, or ; and

G and I independently represent H or C_{1-2} alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, provided that the compound of formula (I) is not 2-[(aminocarbonyl)amino]-5-{[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxyl-3-thiophenecarboxamide.

2. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is $CONH_2$.

3. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_5 is $C(=A)NHR_6$.

4. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is O.

5. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is

C = C, CONH, or .

6. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

5-[(E)-phenyl)-ethenyl]-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-[(E)-2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)- ethenyl]-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acidamide;

5-[(E)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)- ethenyl]-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-Phenethyl-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-Benzyl-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(1-Phenyl-ethyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-Phenylethynyl-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Fluorophenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Ethylphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Methoxyphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Chlorophenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(4-Trifluoromethylphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenylethynyl)-2-ureido-thiophene-3-carboxylic acid amide; and

5-Acetylamino-thiophene-2,4-dicarboxylic acid 4-amide 2-[(3-chloro-phenyl)-amide]; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7-11. Canceled

12. (Currently amended): A method ~~according to claim 7~~ of treating a disease characterized by pathological NF-κB activation comprising inhibiting the pathological activation by administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, wherein said disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

13-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is

24. (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.